

CHAPTER I

Introduction

HIV/AIDS has become a big problem in the world. AIDS is a disease, which is no treatment. What is people can against it is prevention. In 1998, there were 33.4 million people worldwide were living with HIV/AIDS. There were 5.8 million were infected with HIV and 2.5 million AIDS deaths. The number of people worldwide living with HIV increased by 10 percent. Ninety five percent of all HIV infected people live in the developing world. There were 7,000 young people worldwide aged 15-24 is infected with HIV every day. Each day there are 16,000 new HIV infections. HIV continued to spread through the heterosexual population, particularly in Africa. But injection drug use in Eastern Europe was a major contributory factor to the spread of HIV throughout this region. (Global HIV/AIDS Statistics, 1998).

In the Southeast Asia Region, there has been a steady increase in the number of people affected by HIV and AIDS. As end of 1998, there were 8.7 million adults and children estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. The highest number of people infected with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa, the most rapid grow of HIV infection during the 1990's has been in Southeast Asia. (Quinn, 1995).

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). This virus is passed from one person to another through blood-to-blood and sexual contact. In addition, infected pregnant women can pass HIV to their baby during pregnancy or delivery, as well as through breast-feeding. People with HIV have what is called HIV infection. Most of these people will develop AIDS as a result of their HIV infection.

The Kingdom of Cambodia has the most serious HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia, and become one of the worst affected countries in the world (National Centre for HIV/AIDS Dermatology, Venerology and STD, 1998). HIV/AIDS started in high risk behaviour groups in all part of the country and is beginning to spread into the low risk population groups. The highest prevalence of HIV infection is among the commercial sex workers. There were forty three percent among the commercial sex workers are infected with HIV by According to HIV seroprevalence among sentinel groups in Cambodia, 1998. The main root of HIV transmission is through the heterosexual contact. It increases morbidity, mortality, orphans, and health care service cost. The rate of spreading HIV/AIDS is still increasing, and will continue if there is no strong intervention in the whole population. Meanwhile it results in low production and income.

In the essay part, I describe HIV/AIDS transition in the world that is occurring due to human behaviour. HIV/AIDS is now appearing in all different social classes in Cambodia. It is also currently seen in high-risk behaviour groups in all part of the country

and begins to spread into the low risk population groups. The high-risk behaviour started from the commercial sex workers. This leads to the question, why does HIV infection is the highest? I mentioned that the determinants of HIV infection and AIDS include biological, social, and economic factors. These factors make it difficult for commercial sex workers to control change of life style and social norms. Therefore, how could we solve of HIV problem in commercial sex workers? Peer education is one of the good ways to reach commercial sex workers with information about HIV/AIDS and influence their behaviour would be through their peers--respected friends, colleagues and neighbours.

In the proposal part, I present the problem statement, Flowchart of peer education, objectives. Peer education program includes peer educator selection, peer educator training, retraining. I also present the monitoring, supervision, instrumentation, evaluation, data analysis, expected outcome, limitations, and conclusion. The last part of my proposal are budget and activity plan.

The data exercise part, I want to develop the questionnaires whether its response to the commercial sex workers or not. I collected the primary data in Tuol kork among the commercial sex workers. I selected 20 commercial sex workers from brothels for interview with 14 questions, which are related with the knowledge, attitude, and practice. The results were analysed using the EPI-INFO software.

In my bibliographic review, the series of reading are explored to get information about transmission of HIV infection, causes of HIV/AIDS problem, because of human behaviour, biological, environmental, and socio-economical factors. Health education is an important role to solve the HIV/AIDS problem. Health education is the first priority to deal with that one. The urgent intervention is among the commercial sex workers because they are sources of the high-risk of the HIV/STD infection.

In the presentation part, I summarise the important things of the three main parts of my thesis such as an essay, proposal, and the data exercise.

I believe that an intervention to reduce unsafe sexual behaviour leading to the high prevalent of HIV/STD infection among the commercial sex workers by using the peer education approach is an appropriate strategy. This model could be a good way to carry out in Cambodia.